THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Sir, a total number of 15604 approvals (both financial and technical) have been granted to foreign companies, including multinationals, from August, 1991 to 31st August, 1999 of which 790 have been approved for production/ manufacture of consumer goods, to which the condition of dividend balancing has been applied in consonance with the policy.

Cases filed against SAIL under Anti-Dumping Provisions

1841. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US Government filed a case against SAIL under Anti-Dumping Provision in that country;

(b) if so, what steps government have taken against such measures;

(c) how many of such cases have been slapped against the Indian steel producers by the advanced countries in Europe and America, quantity of steel involved in it and the amount of total loss;

(d) whether any retaliatory measures have been taken by the government in such cases; and

(e) what steps are being taken by Government to stop dumping of steel in India?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Defending Anti-Dumping cases is basically the responsibility of the targetted Indian Companies and the Government of India is not a party to Anti-Dumping proceedings. Government of India, however, provides the necessary advice and assistance to such companies.

(c) The following are the cases currently under investigation against the Indian steel companies:

Sl. No.	Product	Country
1.	Hot Rolled Coils	European Union
2.	Quarto Plates	European Union
3.	Carbon Steel Plates	USA
4.	Carbon Steel Plates	Canada

It is very difficult to estimate at this stage the quantity and value of steel involved in the above investigations. However, as opportunity to export in future will depend upon the outcome of the cases, loss in terms of losing good markets may have a bearing on both volume and value.

(d) Anti-Dumping investigations in various countries are carried out under the provisions of "WTO Agreement on Anti-Dumping". Governments are not supposed to initiate retaliatory measures against such investigations. However, in the event of any breach of the Agreement by any country while carrying out Anti-Dumping investigations, Government of India can take recourse to the dispute Settlement Mechanism of WTO.

(e) Government of India has set up the "Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties" in the Ministry of Commerce. The Designated Authority on receipt of an application on behalf of the concerned domestic industry or otherwise, initiates necessary action for investigations and subsequent imposition of Anti-Dumping Duties, when there is sufficient evidence that the dumped imports are causing or threatening to cause material injury to the Indian industry producing like articles. On a petition received from SAIL and others, India has already imposed Anti-Dumping Duties on the imports of Hot Rolled Coils from the CIS countries.

Tobacco storage in Andhra Pradesh

1842. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether tobacco growers, especially in Andhra Pradesh face storage problems; and

(b) if so, the measures proposed to modernise storage system to help the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.